

PUERTO RICO

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is the primary form for requesting registration and/or an absentee ballot from your local election official. **Read all instructions printed below and on the FPCA before completing and signing your application.**

FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION

SAMPLE FORM

REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)			
APPLICATION FOR STATE OF _____		COUNTY OF _____	
		CITY OR TOWNSHIP OF _____ §	
I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.			
1. APPLICANT INFORMATION (See instruction 1.)		6. POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION (This information is required by most states to send you a ballot for primary elections. See instructions.)	
a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) _____ A		b. SEX _____ c. RACE _____ H	
d. DATE OF BIRTH _____		f. OTHER IDENTIFICATION NO. (passport, ID card) _____ C	
e. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____ B		7. REMARKS (Provide additional information which will assist local election officials in determining your eligibility to register and vote. See instructions.)	
2. I LAST VOTED or PLACE OF LAST REGISTRATION (Do not leave this section blank. See instructions.)		I	
a. YEAR _____ b. COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWNSHIP _____		c. STATE _____ d. VOTER REGISTRATION NO. (if known) _____ D	
3. VOTING RESIDENCE (For military, legal residence. For overseas civilians, last residence in U.S. IF USING RURAL ROUTE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS.)		a. LAST DAY OF RESIDENCY _____	
b. NUMBER AND STREET (do not use Post Office Box) _____		M M D D Y Y	
c. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE _____ E		d. STATE _____	
e. COUNTY OR PARISH _____		f. ZIP CODE (9-digit, if known) _____	
4. MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT TO: (Mailing address where you want the ballot to be sent.)		8. AFFIRMATION BY APPLICANT J	
_____ F		X only one: a, b, c or d	
_____		I swear/affirm, under penalty of perjury, that I am: (See instructions)	
_____		a. a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty, or an eligible spouse or dependent.	
_____		b. a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S.	
_____		c. a U.S. citizen overseas by virtue of employment or accompanying spouse or dependent.	
_____		d. other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.	
5. YOUR FAX NUMBER (If this application is faxed, include all international prefixes. See Instructions.)		e. I am a U.S. Citizen, eligible to vote in the above jurisdiction, and subscribe to any required state/local oath or statement.	
_____ G		f. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated.	
		g. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S.	
		h. The information on this form is true and complete.	
		i. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____ K	
		j. DATE _____	
		M M D D Y Y	
		9. WITNESS/NOTARY ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE (If required by state law) _____ L	
		DATE SIGNED _____	
		M M D D Y Y	

The information contained herein is for official use only. Any unauthorized release of this information may be punishable by law.

Application Instructions

Circled letters on the form above correspond to the instructions below. You must complete all shaded areas.

- A** Both your paternal and your maternal surnames are required. Otherwise, provide your full name as it appears on file at the State Elections Commission.
- B** Your Social Security number is required. If you do not have a Social Security number, your Puerto Rico Driver's License number (use Item 1.e) is required for voter registration. If you do not possess either of these identifications, the Commonwealth shall assign a number that will serve to identify you for voter registration purposes.
- C** Provide your father's and mother's first names.
- D** Do not leave blank. Enter "N/A" if not applicable or if you are a first time voter.
- E** Provide the complete street address of your Puerto Rico voting residence. If your address includes a rural route, describe its' location. For example: "On Highway ____, 2 miles past Highway ____, across the street from the ____ gas station." A post office box is not sufficient. This address must be different from the one provided in Item 4 and must be within Puerto Rico.
- F** Print the complete address where you want your ballot sent — usually your current mailing address. It must be different from the address you provided in Item 3. Please

- note: members of the Armed Forces and merchant marine must utilize an APO/FPO address if available.
- G** Provide your e-mail, phone or fax number, whichever is the easiest way to contact you.
- H** **If you do not list a party affiliation, you cannot vote in primary elections.** You must indicate your political party affiliation when applying for a primary ballot (Example: Democrat, Republican) or write "none" in Item 6 of the FPCA. Political party affiliation is not required if only requesting absentee ballots for general elections.
- I** The certifying officer who signs Item 9 must state here: "I certify that [voter] is a [member of the U.S. Army, student at XX University, etc., whichever is applicable]." See Sections I and II D below for details.
- J** Check ONE box.
- K** You are swearing or affirming that the information provided is true and correct by signing the FPCA. Also, see Sections I.D and II.D.
- L** Applicant must sign and date in the presence of an oath taking official.

I. UNIFORMED SERVICES

A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Puerto Rico and members of the Uniformed Services and their family members. Uniformed Services are defined as members of the U.S. Armed Forces, merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

B. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your local election official early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter 2).

To register permanently, you must register in person. However, you may register temporarily to vote in the primary and general elections for Resident Commissioner.

To register temporarily and request an absentee ballot, send your completed FPCA to the Absentee Voting Administrative Board so that it arrives not later than 30 days before the election. You will be sent a special absentee ballot which lists only the candidates for Resident Commissioner to the U.S. Congress.

If you are permanently registered and wish only to request an absentee ballot, send a completed FPCA to the Absentee Voting Administrative Board so that it arrives not later than 60 days before the election. Alternatively, you may request a ballot by using the Petition for Absentee Ballot, which is available by mail either from the Elections Commission or the political parties. You will be sent a ballot for local and Federal offices.

If your absentee ballot request arrives between 59 and 30 days before the election, you will be sent the special absentee ballot which lists only candidates for Resident Commissioner to the U.S. Congress.

C. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballot must be postmarked not later than election day. The State Elections Commission must receive it before 3:00 p.m. on election day.

The State Elections Commission begins mailing ballots approximately 45 days before the election.

Due to its commonwealth status, Puerto Rico does not send representatives to the U.S. Senate or directly participate in the election of the President and Vice President of the U.S.

At the Federal level, a Resident Commissioner to the House of Representatives is elected.

If you are outside the U.S. and have not received your ballot in a timely manner, use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instructions in Chapter 2, page 12.

D. Notary/Witness Requirements

FPCA: Must be sworn to.

The person who administers the oath is verifying your identity and your status (for example, military spouse, merchant marine member, etc.).

Military members, their spouses and their dependents must obtain the signature of a commissioned officer.

Merchant marine members must obtain the signature of the highest officer on board.

Ballot Return Envelope: Must be sworn to.

The person who administers the oath is verifying your identity and your status (for example, military spouse, merchant marine member, etc.).

Military members, their spouses and their dependents must obtain the signature of a commissioned officer.

Merchant marine members must obtain the signature of the highest officer on board.

E. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Puerto Rico allows electronic transmission of the FPCA, including fax and e-mail. You must submit the original FPCA by mail and it must be received by the State Elections Commission no later than 3:00 p.m. on election day.
- Puerto Rico does not allow electronic transmission of the blank absentee ballot or the voted absentee ballot.

Please refer to Appendix C for Specific instructions when transmitting election materials electronically. Use the following numbers:

DSN 223-5527
(703) 693-5527
1-800-368-8683

Additional international toll-free fax numbers are listed on the inside back cover.

Notify Your Local Election Official About Your Current Mailing Address

Instructions continue in Section III: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

II. CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Puerto Rico and overseas electors. The term “overseas elector” means a U.S. citizen who resides outside the U.S. and (but for such residence) would be qualified to vote in Puerto Rico. (Consult Section B below for ballot type eligibility)

- those studying outside of Puerto Rico in a duly accredited educational institution
- agricultural workers under contract with the Agricultural Employment Program of the Commonwealth Labor Department outside Puerto Rico
- members of the diplomatic or foreign aid service of the U.S., or of exchange programs between Puerto Rico and a foreign government
- spouses and children of the above
- airline crew members who are working outside Puerto Rico on election day
- overseas electors

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D. Notary/Witness Requirements

FPCA: Must be sworn to.

The person who administers the oath is verifying your identity and your status (for example, student, agricultural worker, etc.).

Students must obtain the signature of an official in the school registrar’s office.

Dependents, agricultural workers, and airline crew members must swear an oath before a notary public or person authorized by law to administer the oath.

Overseas electors must obtain the signature of a consular officer.

Ballot Return Envelope: Must be sworn to.

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III. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Action Upon Denial of Registration or Absentee Ballot Request

Upon denial of your voter registration application or absentee ballot request, Puerto Rico shall provide you with the reason(s) for the rejection.

B. Where To Send It

Mail the FPCA to:

Absentee Voting Administrative Board
State Elections Commission
PO Box 366220
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-6220

Voting - Knowing You Can Make A Difference!

by IC2 Robert Crumpler, USN, Naval Medical Center, Puerto Rico